

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

Cynthia C. Lynch, chair

In fiscal 2007, the Intellectual Property Law Section continued its commitment to promoting excellent lawyering and scholarship.

In early October, the Intellectual Property Section cosponsored, with the Federal Circuit Bar Association, special events and continuing legal education programs in connection with special sittings of the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (CAFC) at Virginia law schools. The CAFC has exclusive appellate jurisdiction over patent cases and is influential in the intellectual property field. On October 3, 2006, in conjunction with the CAFC's sitting at the University of Virginia School of Law, the section cosponsored two CLE programs — one titled "The Leading Edge: A Window on National Intellectual Property, Trade, and Government Matters," and other titled "Appellate Advocacy in Patent, Trade, and Contract Litigation: Judges and Professors." On October 4, 2006, the section cosponsored a bench-and-bar lunch in Richmond with several judges of the CAFC. The special sittings and associated programs afforded Virginia law students and attorneys an opportunity to attend oral arguments before the CAFC and to learn more about its intellectual property matters.

The Intellectual Property Section's nineteenth annual fall CLE program took place October 5-6, 2006, in Wintergreen. Topics included panel discussions on injunctions in patent cases, the status of patent reform, trends in Supreme Court jurisprudence on intellectual property law, copyright fair use in the digital age, legal issues associated with public wireless networks, and protecting intellectual property when working with the federal government.

The section held its third annual writing competition for Virginia law students, with Judge Richard Linn of the CAFC, a founding member and past chair of the Intellectual Property Section, again serving as the final judge. The four-thousand-dollar prize was awarded to Ajeet Pai, a May 2007 law school graduate from the University of Virginia, for his paper titled "Written Description of Software Inventions: An Argument for the Status Quo."

The Intellectual Property Section also provided the feature articles for the June/July 2007 issue of *Virginia Lawyer* magazine, and was pleased to include the winning paper from our competition among the articles.

The section progressed in efforts to improve communications. The Web site was kept up-to-date, and, with the approval of the Virginia State Bar, it secured the domain name vsbip.org in order to make the site more easily accessible to members. The section also continued to increase its e-mail list, which allows us to convey information in a faster, more convenient format.

At the 2007 annual meeting, the section elected new officers and members to the board of governors. Officers for fiscal 2008 are Janet P. Peyton, chair; Kristan B. Burch, chair-elect; Susan M. Dadio, vice chair; and David W. Hill, secretary. Thomas L. Stoll resigned from the board with two years remaining on his term. New board members are Robert A. Angle, who will serve the remainder of Stoll's term, and Thomas W. Brooke and Melanie C. Holloway, who will serve three-year terms.

